

**SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY MR.
FRANCIS HEMMING THAT A RULING SHOULD BE GIVEN
THAT THE WORK ENTITLED "THE NATURAL HISTORY
OF CORNWALL" BY WILLIAM BORLASE, PUBLISHED
IN 1758, DOES NOT SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 25 OF THE "RÈGLES"**

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(Letter dated 13th June, 1951)

W. Borlase's (1758) "The Natural History of Cornwall" has been considered by various carcinologists (among whom K. H. Barnard, 1950, in his important and recent monograph of the South African Decapoda *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.* **38**: 525, 526) to constitute the first publication in which the generic name *Astacus* has been validly employed. These carcinologists therefore are of the opinion that *Astacus verus* Borlase, 1758 (= *Cancer gammarus* Linnaeus, 1758) should be the type species by monotypy of the genus *Astacus*. This, of course, is contrary to *Opinion* 104 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in which *Cancer astacus* Linnaeus is specified as the type species of the genus *Astacus*. The fact that Borlase's book is rare and therefore not accessible to most carcinologists, made it extremely hard for most workers in this group to form a correct opinion on this case. It is very fortunate therefore that, through Mr. Hemming's careful examination of Borlase's work and his conclusion that it contains no valid names, the question at last has been settled. Since the majority of carcinologists did not accept Borlase's name *Astacus*, the stability of carcinological nomenclature will be furthered by the suppression of the book in question.